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Bangalore Mirror

ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 27 | Min 19 | Humidity 69% Scattered Showers Sensex 81,183 | Nifty 24,852 | Gold 71,796 | Silver 84,867 | Dollar [illegible] | GBP 110.94

HOLIDAY NOTICE

Bangalore Mirror wishes you A HAPPY GANESHA CHATURTHI.

Our offices and press will remain closed on Saturday on account of Ganesha Chaturthi. So you'll miss seeing us on **Sunday, September 8.**

Log on to **www.bangaloremirror.com** or follow **@BangaloreMirror** on Twitter for all the news and updates

The heat is on households this festive season as prices of fruits, vegetables and flowers have shot through the roof due to vagaries of rain

IT'S THE PRICE WE PAY

Bananas worth Rs 120 a kg; coriander leaves Rs 60 for a bunch

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The price of fruits, especially bananas, has skyrocketed in the days leading up to the Gauri-Ganesha festival, along with a sharp increase in the prices of pomegranates, onions, and garlic. Two weeks ago, the price of 'yelakki' bananas was around ₹70-80 per kg, but it has now suddenly jumped to ₹120 per kg. Similarly, pomegranates, which were priced at ₹200 per kg, have now increased by ₹100, reaching ₹300 per kg. The demand for bananas typically rises during the Gauri-Ganesha festival, which could cause prices to rise even further.

Heavy rainfall has affected various regions, damaging crops like bananas, pomegranates, onions, garlic, beans, and coriander leaves, leading to a decline in yield and a subsequent rise in prices. Over the past two weeks, prices have been increasing, and there is a possibility that they may rise even more.

For instance, coriander leaves, which were priced at ₹25 per bunch, are now being sold at ₹60. In HOPCOMS, native coriander leaves were priced at ₹200 per kg. Beans, which were sold at ₹40-50 per kg, have now reached ₹80 in retail markets.

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SCREEN EFFECT

Rise in vision problems, obesity has city docs advising restricted or nil screen time for toddlers

3 THINGS TO DO

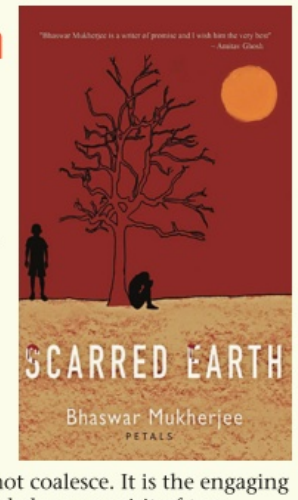
01 Shopping haven

Explore an eclectic selection of products, from intricate Ganesha festival decorations to unique garden ornaments and vibrant pottery, as well as an extensive collection of clothing with beautifully crafted sarees and kurtas in a ten-day "Indian Haat Festival." The fest promises to be a cultural and shopping haven for Bengalureans, blending tradition with contemporary flair while supporting local artisans and their craftsmanship..
Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath
When: Until September 15

02 Fraternal bonding

Watch 'Prathamesh,' a story of sibling love and sibling rivalry, eternal forgiveness, unconditional love, and unfillable voids, written and directed by Ashish Pandit. Life happens, and the brothers (Prathamesh and Anuj) grow to embrace contrasting perspectives on life. Will this sweet brotherly bond stand the test of time, or will jealousy, loneliness, and the emptiness left by parents set them against each other? Join in to witness the journey of this fraternal bond.
Where: Medai-The Stage, Koramangala
When: September 8 to 21

03 Read on



Join the September meetup of the Urban Solace book lovers' club for the book review of 'Scarred Earth' by Bhaswar Mukherjee. Scarred Earth is the heartbreaking story of Baruni and Muneim. Though ravaged by their circumstances, they refuse to succumb. It is a story of two strong personalities who collide but do not coalesce. It is the engaging tale of the indomitable human spirit of two unusual adolescents, which will immerse you completely. **Where: Urban Solace;**
When: September 8, 11.30 am to 1 pm

Festive energy
Devotees are buying Lord Ganesha idols in Mavalli on Friday in preparation for the Ganesha Chaturthi festival.
You can see more images on our Instagram page by scanning this QR code

PIC: KAUSHIK JN

City docs ask parents to keep toddlers away from screens

Prolonged exposure to mobile or TV screens negatively impacts child's cognitive development, reduces parent-child interaction, caution doctors

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Many parents in the city often express concern about their toddlers becoming addicted to mobile phones. Childhood obesity, particularly linked to excessive screen time, is one of the most pressing issues among the numerous health complaints being addressed in the outpatient department (OPD), said Dr Nanditha Rathinam, Consultant in Pediatrics and Pediatric Intensive Care, Manipal Hospital, Yeshwanthpur.

Recently, Sweden's public health agency has now advised that children under the age of two be kept entirely away from digital media and television. Dr Rathinam stated that many children who spend more than two hours a day on screens exhibit a significant reduction in physical activity. Additionally, the influence of food advertisements promoting high-calorie, low-nutrient diets exacerbates the problem. Screen exposure, especially before bedtime, can also interfere with melatonin production, leading to poor sleep quality.

"Parents frequently report behavioral changes such as increased aggression, speech delays, and declining academic performance, all of which are associated with excessive screen time. This prolonged exposure negatively impacts a child's cognitive development and often reduces parent-child interaction, which is crucial for family bonding," she said.

Eliminating screen exposure

She further added that for children under two years of age, the guidelines are clear: they should not be exposed to any screen time, including background TV. "Whether it's a mobile phone, television, tablet, or any other device, screens should be strictly avoided. Some parents may argue that screen time helps calm a distressed child or makes feeding easier, but these justifications are not advisable. Families should completely eliminate screen exposure for young children, as less screen time is always better. Ultimately, parents need to be mindful of what, when, and how much their children are watching to ensure healthier habits and better overall development."

Effects on eyes

Even ophthalmologists report an increasing number of young patients with eye-related problems due to excessive screen time. Dr Sandeep Suresh Patil, Consultant-Ophthalmology, Sakra World Hospital, noted that the recommended screen time for children varies by age: 0-2 years should have no screen time, 2-5 years should be limited to 30 minutes, 5-7 years to around one hour, and 9-10 years to 1-1.5 hours. For those above 11 years, one to two hours is ideal. However, these guidelines are often ignored, especially since the pandemic has increased the online classes to five to eight hours daily. "In response, the government introduced a regulation limiting class time to 40 minutes with a 10-minute break. Another concern is children holding screens too close to their eyes, which can exacerbate myopia. This problem isn't limited to screens; children also tend to hold books too close, study in inappropriate postures, or use devices in dim lighting," he said.

Ophthalmologists report a rise in number of young patients with eye-related problems due to excessive screen time

> **"Some parents may say screen time helps calm a child or makes feeding easier, but these justifications are not advisable**
> – Dr Nanditha Rathinam

To combat similar issues, Singapore's national health authorities have made outdoor activities compulsory for schoolchildren, ensuring sunlight exposure, which is known to control myopia by inhibiting eye elongation, the main cause of myopia, he stated.

"Despite the benefits of sunlight for eye health, our government has yet to establish such guidelines or regulations. The peripheral defocus occurring on the retinal periphery has been receiving a lot of attention lately, with the ophthalmology industry coming up with innovative solutions such as multifocal glasses and lenses and special glasses to address defocus," added Dr Patil.

Case of vanishing returns

Elderly man loses life savings of over Rs 98 lakh to trading scam

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A 69-year-old man, who has been actively trading online since 2007, recently became the victim of a well-orchestrated cyber fraud, losing his life savings of ₹98.59 lakh in the process. The fraudsters, operating through a fake WhatsApp trading group, lured him in with promises of higher returns on investments, trapping him in a scheme that has become alarmingly common, especially targeting the elderly.

The scam began in early July 2024 when a WhatsApp group was created by a man identified as Dhiraj Relli, posing as a trading expert, and his assistant, Veronika Gupta. Without the consent of the victim, Nataraja (name changed), his number was added to this group, where colourful pamphlets promoting high returns from online trading were shared. The man began trading with the group on July 8. Initially, everything seemed legitimate as his capital began to grow, his account balance, according to the scammers, reached an inflated sum of 3.69 crore, giving him the false hope that he had made massive profits.

When the man tried to withdraw 2.65 crore, he was informed that he must first pay a 30% commission fee on his profits before any withdrawal could be processed. His repeated requests to either release a portion of his funds or deduct the commission directly from the account were ignored. Instead, the scammers demanded that at least 60% of the commission be paid upfront—a clear tactic to swindle more money.

The group's administrators then removed him from the group after extracting the required funds. Investigation revealed that the fraudsters had provided fake SEBI registration numbers and were collecting money through third-party accounts. To make the scam appear legitimate, even fake messages from ICICI Bank were sent, claiming that large sums had been credited to the victim's account.

"The money I lost included some borrowings and a lot of my savings," the victim said, adding that he has registered a case hoping that the police will take action.

Modus Operandi

Investigation conducted by Directorate of Enforcement (ED) officials in a recent case revealed the modus operandi of fraudulent stock market investment schemes.

The scam begins by luring individuals via social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, WhatsApp, and Telegram with false promises of high returns and special IPO allotments. Victims are then added to fake WhatsApp/ Telegram groups that mimic well-known financial institutions, filled with scam members sharing fabricated success stories.

Victims are asked to install fake investment apps that display well-known stock names to appear legitimate.

They are encouraged to invest in fake IPOs and stocks, transferring money to shell companies. Initially, they see fictitious returns to build trust, but eventually, they are unable to withdraw their funds.

Identity thefts

In another recent case of financial fraud, an individual opened an account in DBS Bank using a fake identity, which resulted in the illegal deposit of ₹59 lakh. The fraud came to light on September 4, when an attempt was made to withdraw funds from the account. The perpetrator used a PAN card to open the account and deposit the funds.

The individual associated with the PAN card has denied any involvement, claiming their identity was misused.

In another case, A 33-year-old woman lodged a police complaint after her personal contact details and photographs were misused by unknown individuals. The harassment began on September 3, when the victim received multiple calls and WhatsApp messages from strangers, who claimed to have obtained her information from a Facebook page titled 'Call Bangalore Girls'.

According to the police, the accused used different phone numbers, sent her messages and WhatsApp status updates featuring her photo without consent. They also falsely linked her Instagram ID to inappropriate content. The police have registered a case and launched an investigation to identify those behind the harassment.

Tips to avoid traps

- Verify the credentials of any financial service
- Avoid sharing sensitive information over WhatsApp or other messaging platforms
- Do not entertain random messages which promise high returns
- Report any suspicious activity to law enforcement agencies immediately
- Contact the police helpline at 1930 or the emergency number 112 for assistance

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City's double-decker dream cut short again

BMTC's plan to reintroduce iconic buses faces setbacks due to high costs and operational challenges

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File photo of a double-decker bus

The dream of seeing double-decker buses return to Bengaluru has faded once again, much to the city's residents' dismay. Although the Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) received state government approval in 2023 to bring back these iconic buses, the plan now faces uncertainty due to the high costs proposed by the limited number of companies that participated in the tender process.

Double-decker buses were discontinued in 1997 because of maintenance issues and escalating costs. However, the nostalgia and public demand for their return prompted BMTC to develop a plan to operate these buses on ten routes across the city, especially those featuring popular tourist attractions. Unfortunately, this initiative has now hit a major roadblock.

Sources reveal that the BMTC, operating under the Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model, sought tenders to run five non-air-conditioned double-decker buses in partnership with the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) and the Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT). Despite initial enthusiasm, the tender process saw minimal interest. The first tender drew only one bidder, and subsequent reissues also failed to attract more participants. The bids received ranged from ₹99 to ₹102.5 per kilometre, significantly exceeding expectations.

Given that these buses are non-air-conditioned, higher ticket prices are not feasible, leading to potential financial losses if regular fares are used. The city's numerous flyovers also complicate operations, necessitating costly detours. BMTC officials worry that, although profitability isn't the main goal, the high operational costs are unsustainable. If bids had been lower, the buses might have been in service by now, but current rates would result in more losses than gains for BMTC.

> **"Final decision on whether to scrap or proceed with project will be made after discussions with Transport Minister and officials** – BMTC official

BMTC currently operates regular buses at ₹40 per kilometre and electric buses at ₹60 per kilometre. However, the bid for double-decker buses is ₹97 per kilometre. With bidders reluctant to lower their rates and delays from other states adding to the uncertainty, the financial burden is too high for both passengers and the corporation. A senior BMTC official commented, " Due to these concerns, the process has been temporarily halted. The final decision on whether to scrap or proceed with the double-decker bus project will be made after discussions between the Transport Minister and senior officials."

Plans to reintroduce double-decker buses in Bengaluru have encountered several obstacles. One major challenge is the height of foot-over bridges (FOBs), which would hinder the movement of these buses. An official explained, "FOBs are typically 3.8 to 4.5 metres high, making it difficult for double-decker buses to pass underneath. Despite this, we have proposed running five electric double-decker buses on a pilot basis. The plan is still under discussion, but we've received approval for these five buses, which are likely to be rolled out in about six months. The height of these buses will range between 4 and 4.5 metres."

Some suggest that BMTC could boost ridership by introducing electric double-decker buses, which would offer increased seating and help ease peak-hour congestion. Meanwhile, Mumbai is planning to add 900 air-conditioned electric double-decker buses, with a recent contract from the Brihanmumbai Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking (BEST) costing over ₹3,600 crore for 12 years. While Bengaluru has phased out double-decker buses, they still operate in cities like Mysuru and Mumbai.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Any person/s, financial institutions, firms or predecessor/s-in-title, Govt. authorities/bodies, banks, co-operative societies, having any manner of right, interest or title over the schedule property or any portion thereof, or the boundary or having any kind of objection to the transaction may contact the under signed counsel along with relevant documentary proof within 15 days from this publication, after which it would be construed that there is no objection whatsoever from any one and the said transaction would be completed.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Converted Survey No 43/2, 44/1 and 44/3 Totally measuring an extent of 2800 Sq mtrs Situated at Thippagondanahalli Village, Thyamagondlu hobli, Nelamangala taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

EAST BY: Property belongs to Balkha singh.

WEST BY : Property belongs to Thoppaiah.

NORTH BY : Road.

SOUTH BY: Remaining Land of Maranna T.R.

Sd/- **CHANDAN.B,** Advocate
Nelamangala Date: 06/09/2024

936 trees to go for BEL's expansion?

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesofindia.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The public notice was issued by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike Deputy Conservator of Forests in response to a request from the Deputy General Manager (Horticulture) of Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) for permission to remove 936 trees from the North Colony Campus.

According to the public notice, the trees are being removed as they stand within the project area designated for infrastructure development, including facilities for production, testing, storage, upgrades, and the manufacturing of large-scale EVMs for export at the BEL campus.

The BBMP Deputy Conservator of Forests has set a 10-day deadline for the public to file objections, comments, and suggestions. The proposal to cut such a huge number of trees has invited criticism from the public and environmentalists.

"The public sector units have utilised the vacant land available with them for planting saplings. It was a good initiative. Now, the BEL wants to cut 936 trees to facilitate its expansion plan. I urge the BEL to find suitable land outside the city for its expansion plan instead of creating infrastructure facilities for the production of EVMs by cutting trees," said DT Devare, an environmentalist.

Namma Bengaluru Foundation sent a letter to the BBMP Deputy Conservator of Forests, expressing strong opposition to the large-scale removal of trees, highlighting their crucial role in preserving the area's ecological balance and biodiversity.

The letter stated that the felling of 936 trees is a matter of grave concern, as it could have far-reaching consequences on the environment, including climate change, increased air pollution, and a loss of green cover in an already urbanised area.

"We have repeatedly received notices regarding the felling of trees in Bengaluru, but there is little transparency about where or if these trees are being replanted or transplanted. Despite claims of compensatory afforestation, there seems to be a pattern of 'greenwashing' by the Forest Department and other agencies, with little visible impact on preserving the city's precious biodiversity or mitigating climate change. It is time for the BBMP Forest, State Forest, and the BBMP Climate Action Cell to collaborate on a holistic, scientific approach to address Bengaluru's worsening climate and pollution crisis," said Vinod Jacob, General Manager of Namma Bengaluru Foundation.

Ganesh Shankar Raj, an environmentalist and filmmaker, has opined that the BEL should contemplate constructing the buildings without disturbing the standing trees. "The BEL should find innovative ways with the help of the Indian Institute of Science to construct buildings without cutting trees. They should also consider the translocation of trees," Ganesh Shankar Raj said.

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Problems in your area?
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Trash trouble

Yeshwanthpur

Garbage is accumulating near the Raghavendra Swamy Mutt in Mathikere, Yeshwanthpur, leading to an unsightly and hazardous environment.

Broken benches

Hesaraghatta Road

The broken stone benches in AGB Layout Park on Hesaraghatta Main Road need replacement, leaving senior citizens with no place to sit after their walks.

Speeding truck knocks down, kills pedestrian

A speeding truck crashed into a pedestrian at around 5.50 am on Friday near Kamakshipalya bus stand, resulting in his death. Srinivasaiah, a local resident, was walking along the edge of the road in front of SRS Diagnostics when the truck struck him. The vehicle's wheel landed on his head, resulting in fatal injuries.

The Kamakshipalya Traffic Police have registered a case to determine the exact circumstances leading to the accident and are taking appropriate legal action against the driver, Maharaja.

CRIME FILES

FIR against film director after death on sets

An FIR has been registered against prominent film director Yograj Bhat and three other team members following the death of lightman Mohan Kumar (24) during the shooting of the movie Manada Kadalu. The incident occurred on Tuesday evening at a godown in Adakamaranahalli, near Nelamangala. Kumar was working on the set, attempting to unroll a cotton light from a 30-foot-high aluminium rostrum, when he lost his balance and fell. The fall resulted in a severe head injury, causing profuse bleeding. Despite the seriousness of his injuries, he did not receive immediate medical treatment and later succumbed to his injuries at a private hospital. The Madanayakanahalli Police have filed an FIR against director Yograj, manager Suresh, assistant manager Manohar, and Krishnappa from Adakamaranahalli.

Director involved in car accident; 1 injured

Renowned film director Nagashekar was involved in a car accident at Jnanabharathi Campus on Friday afternoon, resulting in injuries to a woman passenger. Her health condition is currently unknown. The incident occurred around 1.30 pm when Nagashekar, who was driving his Benz car, lost control and crashed into a tree on the campus.

According to initial reports, the vehicle was being driven at high speed when it veered off the road and struck a tree, causing significant damage to the front of the car. After the crash, Nagashekar reportedly abandoned the vehicle at the scene and left on a bike, raising questions about the circumstances surrounding the incident. The Jnanabharati traffic police inspected the crash site and seized Nagashekar's car as part of their investigation.

Photoshoot at dam's crest gate sparks outrage

A pre-wedding photoshoot conducted next to the recently repaired 19th crest gate of the Tungabhadra dam has sparked widespread outrage among locals, who are calling for an investigation into how the couple gained access to the restricted area. The gate had been damaged a few weeks ago, leading to a complete ban on entry to the dam, including for the media and the public. Despite this, the couple from Hosapete was able to conduct the shoot on Wednesday. The couple's photos, which show them sitting near the crest gate machinery, have since gone viral on social media. One of the images even shows another car parked behind their vehicle, raising suspicions that officials may have facilitated the shoot.

IN BRIEF

Major accident averted

A potential disaster was averted thanks to the alertness of a railway trackman. A weld on the tracks between Kumta and Honnavar on the Konkan Railway route had come apart, posing a threat to the Rajdhani Express, running on the same track. However, due to the timely action of trackman Mahadev Naik, the disaster was prevented, saving hundreds of lives. While on duty early in the morning, Naik noticed a defect on the track. Realising that the Rajdhani Express was due to arrive shortly, he immediately alerted the Kumta station. However, by then, the train was only eight minutes away from the damaged section. The station master contacted the train's loco pilot and urgently instructed Naik to somehow stop the train. Within five minutes, he covered half a km from the damaged weld and managed to signal the train to stop. After railway staff repaired the weld, the train continued its journey towards Karwar. Konkan Railway CMD Santosh Kumar Jha announced a cash reward of Rs 15,000. A senior railway engineer felicitated him and presented the cash prize.

New locations, better services

In a recent move aimed at improving operational efficiency, the city police have issued an order to relocate two key traffic police stations. According to an August 18 order, Chikkajala Traffic Police Station has been shifted from TT & RSI in RK Hegde Nagar to the 1st Floor of Bengaluru Police Station (Law & Order) as of Friday. Additionally, Hennur Traffic Police Station will now be moving into the TT & RSI building vacated by the Chikkajala Traffic Police.

Romantic joyrides push safety to brink

Bengaluru sees dangerous trend as many couples engage in 'thrill-seeking romance' on road, endangering public safety

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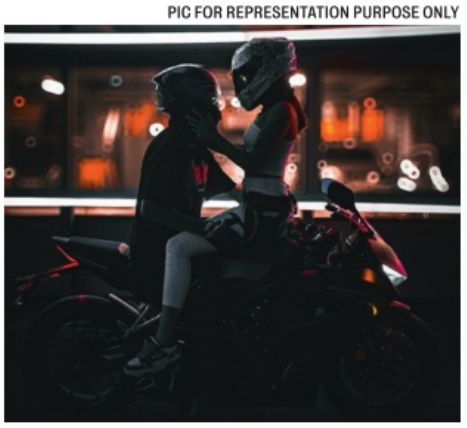

'Sitting on the tank obstructs the rider's front view, posing great danger'

A disturbing trend has emerged in the city: young couples are engaging in reckless joyrides that not only put their lives at risk but also pose a significant threat to public safety. In a latest incident, a young couple was seen on a two-wheeler near Chalukya Circle weaving through traffic as the woman precariously perched on the petrol tank while her partner accelerated the bike with reckless abandon.

Captured during broad daylight, this incident has sparked outrage and concern among citizens and law enforcement alike and adds to the growing list of similar cases that have become alarmingly frequent in the city. The footage, now in the hands of Bangalore Traffic Police, is a reminder of the consequences of such dangerous behaviour.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic West) Anitha B Haddannavar said, "Jolly riding typically involves violating traffic rules such as reckless driving, not wearing helmets, and failing to take necessary precautions. The seat is designed for passengers to sit behind the rider, not on the fuel tank. Sitting on the tank obstructs the rider's front view, particularly if another person of similar height is sitting in front, creating a very dangerous situation."

This isn't an isolated incident. A few weeks ago, a similar video went viral on social media, showing a young couple on a joyride along Reva College Campus Road, under the jurisdiction of the Yelahanka traffic police. The video, captured by a fellow rider's mobile phone, quickly gained traction online. It depicted the woman sitting on the bike's petrol tank as her companion recklessly sped through the streets, oblivious to the potential dangers. This incident drew immediate comparisons to another joyride gone wrong on the Hebbal Flyover a few months earlier, where a young man was arrested by Hebbal traffic police after performing dangerous stunts with his partner on board. These incidents, which have become disturbingly frequent, highlight a growing trend among young couples who seem to equate thrill-seeking with romance, often at the cost of their safety and that of others on the road.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic East) Kuldeep Kumar Jain issued a stern warning to the public, urging them to refrain from such reckless actions. "Engaging in such activities is 100 per cent risky and often not as expected. According to prescribed guidelines, any violation of traffic rules, especially those involving speed, carries significant risk. Activities deemed risky or inadvisable should be avoided. We strongly discourage such behavior. If the public encounters such incidents or has information about such incidents, please report them or call 112. We will address these issues and take necessary action," Jain added.

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*https://www.healthline.com/health/what-can-cause-erectile-dysfunction-at-30#prevalence

Bribe for injection: 'Must be dealt with iron hand'

HC upholds conviction of storekeeper at ESI office, but reduces sentence imposed

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The Karnataka High Court has affirmed the conviction of BM Venkatappa, a storekeeper employed in the ESI office, for soliciting and receiving a bribe of Rs 1,000. The bribe was demanded in exchange for providing the necessary injection prescribed by a NIMHANS hospital doctor to the complainant. Justice Ramachandra D Huddar, presiding over a single-judge bench, partially granted the appeal filed by Venkatappa, upholding the conviction but reducing the sentence imposed by the trial court.

The bench remarked, "In view of the facts and circumstances brought on record by the prosecution, the submission of the HCGP with regard to the affairs of ESI appears to be probable. Such an attitude of the employees in demanding bribes from the employees to do official favour has to be dealt with iron hands."

The appellant claimed that the trap was a farce and violated Article 20 of the Constitution of India. Lastly, it was alleged that the complainant forcibly placed the tainted money in the appellant's hands.

The prosecution maintained that it had proven its case against the accused and that the inconsistencies in the witnesses' evidence highlighted by the accused should not be exaggerated to dismiss the case. Moreover, the prosecution argued that the appellant lacked a satisfactory explanation for receiving the tainted money, given the presumption available under Section 20 of the Act.

After examining the evidence provided by the prosecution witnesses, the bench stated, "Evidence of PWs. 1 to 5, if cumulatively read, goes without saying that all these witnesses are consistent about the position of the accused, his demand and acceptance of bribe money and seizure of the same by the IO." The court held that when the prosecution presented compelling evidence of the accused's crime, it could be confidently stated that even upon re-evaluation of the evidence, one could not reach a conclusion different from that of the trial court.

Considering that the case dates back to 2007 and the trial concluded in 2014, the court noted that the accused must have reached superannuation by now. As a result, the court determined that showing some leniency in sentencing would be just and proper. The appellant was sentenced to three months of rigorous imprisonment for the offense under Section 7 and six months of rigorous imprisonment for the offense under Section 13(2) of the Act, which the court deemed sufficient to meet the ends of justice.

> **"Such an attitude of the employees in demanding bribes from the employees to do official favour has to be dealt with iron hands**
>
> –High Court Bench

HC quashes case against IIT graduate who developed tool to book quicker railway Tatkal tickets

The Karnataka High Court has dismissed the criminal charges filed under the Railways Act against Gaurav Dhake, an IIT graduate and startup founder. Dhake had developed a software tool that could generate Railway Tatkal tickets within 45 seconds, significantly faster than the usual five to seven minutes required on the official railway website.

Justice M Nagaprasanna, presiding over the single judge bench, ruled in favour of Dhake, stating, "The petitioner has neither procured nor supplied tickets. All that the petitioner has done was creation of an extension to the IRCTC website. That extension would speed up the process of securing Tatkal confirmation of those potential travellers and the period of seven minutes is said to have been reduced to 40 seconds. It would undoubtedly benefit all the public."

Dhake's web extension/app was designed to auto-fill the details of potential travellers on the IRCTC website, expediting the process of booking Tatkal tickets. Initially, the service was provided free of charge, but in February 2020, Dhake limited the number of bookings through his extension to 10 per day and charged a fee of Rs 30 per booking to ensure authenticity and prevent bulk ticketing by agents.

The railways issued a notice to Dhake on September 29, 2020, and three years later, filed a final report after registering a crime. Dhake argued that he had neither procured nor distributed railway tickets, which is a necessary condition under Section 143 of the Railways Act. He contended that allowing further proceedings would be an abuse of the legal process and result in a miscarriage of justice.

The court, after examining the records, concluded that the crime could not have been registered unless the ingredients of Section 143 were met. Citing a similar case decided by the High Court of Kerala in Mathew K Cherian v State Of Kerala (2016), the court agreed with the ruling and found no justification for allowing the proceedings against Dhake to continue. Exercising its jurisdiction under Section 482 of the CrPC, the court quashed the criminal proceedings against the petitioner, Gaurav Dhake.

'Bring Mantri before panel on Sept 23'

| Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The National Consumer Disputes Redressal Commission (NCDRC) Joint Registrar on September 2 directed Station House Officer of Cubbon Park Police Station to execute the non-bailable warrant of arrest against Sushil Mantri Chairman and Managing Director of M/s Mantri Estate Management Pvt Limited.

"You are hereby directed to execute the non-bailable warrant of arrest against Sushil Mantri, Chairman and Managing Director of Mantri Estate Management Pvt Limited and produce him before this honourable National Commission on September 23 at 10.30 am," the order issued by Iqbal Ahmed, Joint Registrar of NCDRC read.

It may be recalled that the NCDRC has directed the registry on August 23 to issue fresh non-bailable warrant against Sushil Mantri, the main director of the JD Company to be brought before the NCDRC physically on September 23. The NCDRC has also directed the registry to issue summons to the concerned Station House Officer for being present along with the accused Sushil Mantri for persistent defying of the orders issued by the NCDRC. "The copy of the warrant be send to both the DCP and also Commissioner of Police Bangalore for execution, without fail," the NCDRC directive issued on August 23 stated.

It may be recalled that NCDRC has issued an order on January 31, 2022 stating that Mantri Estate Management Private Limited and others had collected Rs 7,12,86,650 from 302 flat owners. It was agreed that once the agreement is terminated or on expiry of the agreement, the refundable amount would be refunded to the flat owners.

The NCDRC has stated that it was of the considered view that the complainants are not only entitled for the refund of their refundable deposit amount but also a fair and reasonable compensation for the delay.

Chamundeshwari Authority Act: Source of conflict

| Sridhar.Vivan
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The implementation of the Chamundeshwari Kshetra Development Authority Act of 2024 has sparked tension between the State government and the Mysore royal family.

The High Court on Thursday instructed the Karnataka state government not to make any changes to the fixed or movable assets related to the Chamundeshwari Temple in Mysuru. This directive comes as part of a case questioning the formation of the Chamundeshwari Area Development Authority.

The petition, filed by Rani Pramoda Devi of the Mysore royal family, challenges the formation of the authority.

Purpose of the Act

Enacted in February 2024, the Act was designed to establish an independent statutory authority responsible for the "development and maintenance" of 'Shree Chamundeshwari Kshethra.' This ancient temple, over 1,000 years old, gained prominence, particularly after the Wadiyars, who came to power in 1399 CE, adopted Chamundeshwari as their home deity.

Opposition from the Royal Family

The state government's decision to form the Chamundeshwari Authority was announced in the last budget, with new rules introduced on July 1, 2024. However, Pramoda Devi Wadiyar opposed this move, filing a writ petition that led to the High Court declaring the Act unconstitutional and issuing a stay order. Despite this, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah convened the first meeting of the authority on September 3, 2024. Pramoda Devi Wadiyar asserts that the Mysore royal family has been the rightful owner of several properties on Chamundi Hill, including the temple itself, since 1972, when the state government approved a list of their properties. She argues that the government's attempt to create the Chamundeshwari Authority is a pretext to seize these private properties and take control of the hill.

Procession as part of Chamundeshwari Vardhanti atop Chamundi Hills

Concerns over government control

The royal family fears that the new authority will strip them of their rights, as the government will have control over all decisions related to Chamundi Hill. All donations, offerings, and funds collected at the hill would be managed by the authority, leaving the royal family with no influence. The 15-member authority, led by the Chief Minister, includes several government officials and politicians, with the power to purchase land and develop properties, raising concerns about overdevelopment.

Management of the temple

Pramoda Devi Wadiyar has expressed the royal family's readiness to manage the Chamundeshwari Temple if the court rules in their favour. She emphasised that the situation today is different from the past, when Srikantadatta Narasimharaja Wadiyar had written to the government about the difficulties in managing the hill. Siddaramaiah, however, defended the Act, stating that the establishment of the authority is lawful and necessary for the development and management of the Chamundeshwari constituency. Pramoda Devi Wadiyar, countering the government's stance, pointed out the dangers of over-development, citing examples like Wayanad in Kerala and Kodagu, where excessive tourism has caused environmental harm. She emphasised that Chamundi Hill should be preserved as a natural site rather than being turned into a tourist-centric development area. She also clarified that her son, Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, who has been elected as an MP will not use his influence for personal gain.

Dept has established 10 squads to tackle illegal rentals

White to wrong: Just personal use, not for hire

Transport dept to seize vehicles with white board being used for rentals and pursue legal action

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The Bengaluru transport department has issued a stern warning against the illegal rental of personal vehicles with white board registration plates for commercial use, which requires yellow plates. The department has announced that such vehicles will be seized, and both the owner and operator will face legal action. Additionally, some start-ups in the city have been identified as promoting this unlawful practice.

C Mallikarjun, Additional Commissioner of Transport Enforcement, said, "I have come across advertisements from companies offering white board vehicles for rent, which is a clear violation. Despite repeated warnings, some start-ups continue to operate illegally. We are committed to taking strict action. Investigations will be carried out, and police cases will be filed against the companies involved."

He noted that the department had previously filed numerous cases and established 10 squads in Bengaluru, with one squad in each district, to monitor illegal vehicle rentals. Karnataka has approximately 5 lakh yellow board cars, which are subject to specific government taxes that whiteboard vehicles do not incur.

An official further explained, "Many travellers heading out of Karnataka prefer to use white board vehicles as they do not have to pay the interstate taxes applicable to yellow board vehicles. However, this practice is entirely illegal. The recent crackdown by the Bengaluru transport department on the illegal rental of white board vehicles for commercial use is crucial for several reasons. Firstly, it addresses a significant violation of transport laws, which distinguish between personal (white board) and commercial (yellow board) vehicles. Commercial vehicles are subject to stricter regulations, including the payment of higher taxes and compliance with safety standards, ensuring the safety and well-being of passengers. Allowing white-board vehicles to operate commercially undermines these regulations, posing potential risks to public safety. Secondly, the illegal rental of whiteboard vehicles creates an unfair advantage for operators bypassing the legal framework, which negatively impacts legitimate commercial vehicle operators. Yellow board vehicle owners invest in acquiring necessary licenses, paying taxes, and maintaining compliance with legal requirements. When white board vehicle owners avoid these responsibilities, it distorts the market and leads to unfair competition, affecting the livelihood of those abiding by the law. Moreover, this practice affects government revenue. The illegal use of white board vehicles deprives the government of this revenue, which could otherwise be used for improving transportation systems, roads, and safety measures."

> **Travellers heading out of K'taka prefer to use whiteboard vehicles to avoid interstate taxes**
>
> –Official

An official said, "The transport department's action sends a strong message that illegal practices will not be tolerated, emphasising the importance of compliance and safety within the transportation sector. This move is necessary to restore order and ensure fair competition.

Alleged Maoist nabbed while visiting friend in city

The Anti-Terror Cell (ATC) of the Central Crime Branch (CCB), Bengaluru City Police, apprehended a 35-year-old man on Thursday, who is allegedly an active member of the proscribed CPI (Maoist) party.

Identified as Anirudh Rajan from Chennai, Tamil Nadu, he was arrested at the Kempegowda Bus Station following a tip-off about his presence in Bengaluru. Sub-inspector Sulochana from Upparpet Police detained him after observing suspicious behaviour. When confronted, Rajan confirmed his identity but declined to provide additional details.

Suspect handed over pen drive containing party documents during interrogation

Rajan was taken to the CCB's Interrogation Centre in Madiwala, where he admitted to being a CPI (Maoist) member for the past five years. During the interrogation, he handed over a pen drive containing documents and letterheads linked to the banned Maoist party.

After his confession, the police raided his friend's house in Indiranagar and recovered further incriminating materials. Additionally, the CCB found an Aadhar card in Rajan's possession under the name Vikas Ghatge, which they suspect was used for his covert activities.

Authorities claim Rajan had been operating underground, tasked with raising funds, organising secret meetings of Naxal sympathisers, and recruiting new members for the party. He has now been booked by the Upparpet Police. Investigations are ongoing to uncover more details about his role and connections within the CPI (Maoist) network.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

MURKY MORNING

Sunrise on a misty morning in Gopinatham

The picture was clicked by reader **NJ Ravi Chander**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

Nightmare on JP Nagar streets: Brief rain enough to sink homes

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Monsoons bring a recurring nightmare of flooding for JP Nagar residents. Since 2017, even a brief ten-minute downpour is enough to inundate homes. Despite multiple visits from Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) officials and local Members of Legislative Assembly, the problem remains unresolved, leaving residents frustrated and demanding a permanent solution.

Residents first began noticing the problem in 2017, and it has only worsened with each passing year. A resident says that there is an inadequate stormwater drain (SWD) along 4th Cross, Dollar Layout which cannot handle the volume of water that pours down during heavy rains, leading to overflow and subsequent flooding of nearby houses.

Madhusudhan, a longtime resident said, " Water has entered many apartments and houses in the neighbourhood, the officials only take short term action, but there is no effective solution. We require a permanent solution."

The residents have made numerous appeals to the BBMP and have even hosted visits for local MLAs, who acknowledge the severity of the issue, but do nothing. Despite these visits and assurances, flooding continues each year, with no sign of relief. Residents have been asking for a parallel SWD to be constructed along 4th Cross, Dollar Layout, to increase the drainage capacity and prevent future flooding.

Residents also pointed out that an additional SWD system was connected from Puttenahalli Lake to the existing JP Nagar SWD. This connection has resulted in two SWDs converging into a single path, significantly reducing the overall drainage capacity. They noted that the area did not experience flooding issues before these two drainage systems were merged, but since the connection, they started facing this problem.

Previously, there were fewer buildings, with open ground that could absorb rainwater. However, with the construction of new apartments there is now less ground for water to seep in. This lack of natural drainage has left water with no place to go. The residents pray that their continued pressure on the authorities will finally lead to the construction of the much-needed parallel SWD.

Under-managed SWDs cause immense flooding in JP Nagar, even when the shower lasts for only 10 minutes

DID YOU KNOW?

The first female pilot to cross the Atlantic Ocean on her own was Amelia Earhart. Her 1937 disappearance on a global journey sparked a great deal of conjecture and became an everlasting mystery. Earhart was well-known for inspiring women to defy limiting societal conventions and go after their dreams, particularly in the realm of aviation. With Fred Noonan serving as her navigator, Earhart set out to round the globe in 1937. Earhart had sporadic radio communication with the US Coast Guard cutter Itasca, which was located close to Howland. Earhart radioed that the plane was running low on fuel late in the flight. After about 60 minutes or so, she announced, "We are running north and south." That was the final message the Itasca received. After the plane was thought to have crashed around 100 miles (160 km) from the island, a thorough search was conducted to locate Earhart and Noonan. But the operation was canceled on July 19, 1937, and the two were deemed lost at sea.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

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Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

Which recreational activities or hobbies do you think are most popular among Bengaluru residents?

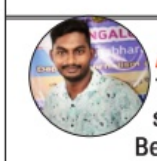
Nithis Kumar, BM Reader
In the bustling city of Bengaluru, residents find joy in outdoor activities. Trekking and cycling are among the favourites, offering a chance to explore the city's beautiful landscapes and vibrant neighbourhoods

Huligappa BM Reader
Cricket and visiting restaurants are my two hobbies that brings a lot of joy. Cricket is along with thrill of the game, is also about the camaraderie and teamwork. On the other hand, visiting restaurants is an opportunity to explore different cuisines and discover new flavours.

Shiva Prasad, BM Reader
Strolling in Lalbagh, having a picnic at Cubbon Park, shopping at MG Road which is a popular shopping destination are some of the popular recreational activities for Bengalureans.

Sandya M, BM Reader
Bengaluru offers a plethora of outdoor activities that are popular among its residents. From trekking and camping at Nandi Hills to wildlife excursions, the city offers a variety of thrilling activities.

Naveen, BM Reader
Art and craft are popular hobbies among Bengalureans. The city offers numerous hobby classes and workshops from painting and pottery to quilting and knitting; these classes cater to a wide range of interests.



Akash GS, BM Reader
Traveling and reading are some popular activities for Bengalureans. The city's libraries and bookstores provide ample resources for those interested in reading. The city, rich in culture and heritage, is worth exploring.

SPEAK TO US

In terms of entertainment, do you have a preferred venue or space for concerts, performances, or events?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at WhatsApp us on 9591233247 or mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

Speed devils are raising hell in peaceful neighbourhoods, say citizens

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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

The residents of Cooke and Richards Town are concerned about the daily nuisance of two-wheeler riders racing away in their neighbourhood, day and night. They alleged that around the men do not wear helmets and sometimes three-four of them are on one bike. As it is a residential area, many residents and children go for their daily walks or to play at Richards park, so the situation turns dangerous.

One of the residents, Sunita Vaznaik, said, "These boys in groups race the bikes up and down the narrow streets and around the park. The silencers are removed or, as in the case of a certain bike, emits a loud firecracker like sound. This is done for the pleasure of creating a disturbance. It is especially disturbing for elderly people, babies, the sick, and animals. If anyone tries to stop them, they shout and abuse us."

Recently the residents wrote to the Pulikeshi Nagar police station in Frazer Town, but said that even the police have not been helpful. In their letter they stated, "These used to be peaceful neighbourhoods where families and retired people live because they were safe communities. No longer. It's now a lawless place where these rowdies roam with no fear of being caught or punished. The police appear to be helpless to apprehend these criminal elements. We have filed numerous complaints. Called 112. But to no avail."

Bikers said to be disturbing peace in Cooke Town and Richards Town

Residents pointed out that with the festivals coming, they are dreading the next few months as the nuisance increases during this time.'

"Come the festive season, these boys will be bursting crackers near the park day and night. None of them live here. At night they come here to drink and party. They beat or throw stones at the street dogs who bark at them and have threatened us when we confront them. Although we have been assured that police teams would be assigned to Richards Town on a regular beat, we personally have seen no police, particularly around the park. We request them to be stationed there post 10 pm when the nuisance occurs," said a resident.

However, a police source said they go on rounds here daily. "We are carrying out daily beat rounds. We are looking into this matter and will take action against those creating nuisance," said an official.

City's groundwater recharge rate in rain will be tracked

Agencies to estimate rainfall recharge rate across 711 sq km of city

Monsoon has been a mixed bag for the city with highs and lows of rainfall recorded so far

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in association with Bhabha Atomic Research Center will soon start looking at Bengaluru's groundwater recharge through rainfall.

The agencies plan to estimate the recharge rate using tracers. Tritium injection will be used to estimate the rainfall recharge rate across 711 sq km of the city, according to the annual action plan sketched by CGWB.

Experts in the city say it is a step in the right direction as the data obtained during the study can be used for better management of groundwater. "Overall volume of extraction is more than the total volume of recharge in Bengaluru. While we are unable to compensate for annual losses, we currently have losses to balance. The outcome of the study will help us understand the situation better and thus more effective management plans can be drawn," said Shubha Ramachandran, water team lead at Biome Environmental Trust.

The plummeting groundwater table of Bengaluru was recently acknowledged by CGWB. In its recent report, the Board highlighted that over 90% of the 24 wells being monitored in the city recorded a considerable fall in decadal (November 2013 to November 2023) water level.

> **The outcome of the study will help us understand the situation and draw up more effective management plans**
>
> –Shubha R, Biome Trust

Drop in level of water by 2 metres

As per the report, two out of the 24 wells monitored registered improvement in the groundwater table by 2 metres above the ground level. The water level was recorded to be lower in the rest of the 22 wells. While the levels in 17 wells were recorded to have dropped by 2-4 metres below ground level, in five wells it has dropped more than four metres below ground level.

CGWB also recorded the depth of the water level in 27 wells and found that the majority of the wells had water levels between five and ten metres below ground level.

Experts say that while recharge structures are one way to improve the groundwater table, water demand management is an important aspect.

"We need to come up with measures to bring down the demand at both domestic and commercial levels. A considerable amount of grade A water is currently lost due to a lack of management and awareness, such as through leaking taps. Bengaluru's domestic water demand is the largest and the need of the hour is to lessen this requirement," said a city-based water conservationist.

Understanding of groundwater

Hydrologists also point to the need for a better understanding of the groundwater table in the city to come up with effective management strategies.

"Understanding our aquifers and mapping them at multiple levels can be the first step. We should take a scientific approach to understanding locations for recharge structures. Spatial map of city's contour lines and aquifers should be layered with ward level or watershed level recharge estimate would paint a clearer picture," added Ramachandran.

CM inaugurates first phase of Yettinahole project

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah inaugurated the first phase of the ambitious 23,251.66 crore Yettinahole Drinking Water Project on Friday at Hebbanahalli in Sakaleshpur taluk. The project aims to address severe water shortages in drought-affected areas by lifting 24.01 TMC of water from Yettinahole, Kadumane Hole, Keri Hole, and Hongadahalla during the monsoon season. The water will be sourced from the Western Ghats in Sakleshpur taluk to supply drought-prone regions.

This project will supply 14.056 TMC of drinking water to approximately 75.59 lakh people (projected for 2023-24) and livestock across 29 taluks, 38 towns, and 6,657 villages in Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Bengaluru Rural, Ramanagara, Tumakuru, Hassan, and Chikkamagaluru districts. Additionally, 9.953 TMC of water will be directed to 527 lakes across Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Bengaluru Rural, Hassan, and Tumakuru districts for groundwater replenishment, filling lakes to 50% capacity.

The first phase has overcome hurdles in implementing lift and power supply works, with water being lifted from Weirs 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8, and transported up to Delivery Chamber-3. From there,

> **This project will supply 14.056 TMC of drinking water to approximately 75.59 lakh people (projected for 2023-24) and livestock across 29 taluks, 38 towns, and 6,657 villages**

it will be further lifted to Delivery Chamber-4 and finally gravity-fed into the 252.61 km-long gravity canal, of which 164.47 km is complete. Due to forest and land acquisition issues, only the first 42 km of the canal is fully operational, but a plan is in place to temporarily release 1,500 cusecs of water through the Veda Valley to Vani Vilasa Sagara. The preliminary testing for this phase began in November 2023, and on August 26, 2024, water successfully flowed into the gravity canal. On September 6, water will be lifted from the remaining weirs into the canal system. By the end of July 2024, 16,152.05 crore had been spent, with a target completion date of 2026-27. German Telemetry technology was implemented in 2018 to measure water flow, and by August 31, 2024, 14.13 TMC of water was recorded. Completion goals include finishing all lift works by 2025 and constructing the Lakkenahalli balancing reservoir, with a full completion target set for March 2027.

First phase of Yettinahole project is inaugurated on Friday

Festival is really dear to us, this year

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The price of onions has also surged. In retail markets, onions that were priced at ₹20-25 per kg a few days ago are now being sold at ₹60 per kg. Around 80% of the onions come from Maharashtra, but due to increased rainfall there, the supply has decreased, which may lead to further price hikes.

Harvest dampener

Sources said that in Karnataka, onion production is yet to start. Traders have warned that if the rains continue, the harvest may be severely affected, leading to further price increases. "The wholesale price at APMC ranges from ₹25 to ₹45 per kg, depending on size and quality. Including transportation, labour, and handling costs, the retail price reaches ₹60-65 per kg. Onions are currently arriving from Chitradurga and Challakere regions. It will take another month for the onions from North Karnataka to enter the market. Additionally, the quality of the incoming onions is not up to the mark, and Pune onions are fetching higher prices due to the shortage in the market," said B Ravishankar, an official from the Onion Traders Association.

At the beginning of the year, the price of garlic was ₹400-500 per kg. The price had decreased with the arrival of new garlic, but due to crop damage caused by the recent rains,

prices have surged again, reaching ₹400 per kg. The production of garlic in Karnataka is limited, and the state mainly relies on supplies from Madhya Pradesh. The increased rainfall has led to a decline in garlic production, resulting in a shortage in the market, which has pushed prices up. With the festival season, weddings, and other events coming up, traders predict that prices may rise even further in the coming days.

Pricey flowers

Just a month ago, jasmine, which was going unsold and was being given away for free as farmers couldn't even cover the cost of labour, has now seen a significant price hike due to the upcoming Ganesh Chaturthi, making it a highly sought-after flower. Sources said that a month ago, farmers were struggling to cover production costs with the sales of jasmine, which was priced at ₹80 per kg. The earnings were not even sufficient to pay the labour costs for plucking the flowers, leading to farmers giving them away for free to anyone who showed interest. However, in recent days, the same jasmine from this region is fetching prices up to ₹500 per kg in the Shivamogga market, bringing immense joy to the farmers.

In Hagaribommanahalli, about 40% of the farmers sell their jasmine in the Hospet market, while the rest rely on the Shivamogga market. In the Hospet market, jasmine is being bought for ₹400-450 in the early morning.

However, the yield has decreased by 60% due to pest infestations, reducing the daily yield from at least 25 kg per acre to a maximum of 8 kg per acre. As supply decreases and demand increases, prices are rising.

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CHANGE OF NAME

WE, Prateek Gupta and Suruchi Gupta R/o B-304, Bhuvi by Amsha, Bengaluru - 560103 have changed our minor daughter's name from INAYA GUPTA to NIYATI GUPTA vide affidavit dated 3/9/24

I, Nalini Vernekar W/O, Sachin S Vernekar R/o 498/12, Flat No. 101, Crescent Lakeside, 33rd Main, 9th Cross, Mg Layout, Jp Nagar 6th Phase, Bangalore 560078 have changed my name to Nalini S Vernekar for all purposes.

I, SHEIK AJMAL PASHA S/o Sheik Mahmood R/o No:- 188 4th Cross Devaraj Urs Nagar Old Guddadahalli Bangalore 560026 have changed my name to SHAIK AJMAL PASHA for all purposes

I, Venugopal Chikkaramegowda R/o E-302 Gopalan Millennium Habitat Kundalahalli Itpl Main Road Bengaluru 560037 Karnata India have changed my minor daughter's name from Purvi Bangalore Venugopal to Purvi Venugopal.

I Shrikant Aravind Kulkarni S/O, Aravind Kulkarni R/o 187/a, Beside Vittal Stores, Isro Layout, Vittal Nagar , Bengaluru-560078 have changed my name to Shrikant Kulkarni .

I, Firdos Fatima W/o Ahmed Sharieff R/o 5/6 1st floor, 1st Cross Siddapura B'lore-560011 have changed my name to Firdose.

I, Firdose Fathima W/o Ahmed Sharieff R/o 5/6 1st floor, 1st Cross Siddapura B'lore-560011 have changed my name to Firdose.

I, Farha Basri Mohammed D/o Ahmed Sharieff R/o 5/6 1st floor, 1st Cross Siddapura B'lore-560011 have changed my name to Farha Basri.

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Cabinet gives green signal to raise loans for PRR

The long-pending Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) project in Bengaluru has gained fresh momentum after Thursday's cabinet approval to secure loans from financial institutions. According to the proposal, 75% of the project's estimated cost of Rs 27,000 crore will be financed through loans, giving the long-awaited infrastructure initiative a significant boost.

The PRR, which will connect from Tumakuru Road to Hosur Road via Airport Road, is poised to significantly boost the city's overall growth and development. Once completed, this crucial infrastructure initiative will not only address some of Bengaluru's pressing traffic and congestion challenges but also stimulate the broader economic landscape. The long-delayed project, which recently received a much-needed push after the cabinet's approval to raise loans for its funding, is expected to transform how the city functions and grows in the coming years.

PICTURE FOR REPRESENTATION ONLY

'Rs 27,000 will be financed through loans for the PRR project'

Project benefits

"One of the most immediate and visible benefits of the PRR will be the reduction in traffic congestion across Bengaluru. As the city has grown into a major IT and industrial hub, its existing road infrastructure has struggled to keep pace with the rapid urbanisation and influx of vehicles. The PRR, which will encircle the city and connect key highways like NH-44 and NH-75, will provide a much-needed alternative route for vehicles that do not need to pass through the city center. Additionally, it will serve as a crucial bypass for trucks and heavy vehicles, diverting them away from the city's core areas," said an official.

Vidya Kumar, a real estate developer, said that this project is expected to act as a catalyst for real estate growth, particularly in the peripheral areas of Bengaluru. The development of this 65-km road will open up vast stretches of land for residential, commercial, and industrial use, spurring new investments.

"Areas that were once considered too far or difficult to access will become prime locations for real estate development. Property values along the PRR corridor are likely to appreciate as better connectivity attracts more businesses, industries, and residential communities. This could also lead to the development of new satellite townships around Bengaluru, offering a viable solution to the city's overcrowded core and providing more affordable housing options," added Kumar.

Chetan Raj, another property developer, added, "With improved infrastructure, the PRR will not only benefit commuters and residents but also help boost Bengaluru's industrial and economic growth. The road will connect several industrial zones and technology parks, enabling smoother movement of goods and services. Industries will benefit from reduced transportation costs and faster access to markets, which in turn can enhance productivity and profitability."

> **"This project is expected to act as catalyst for real estate growth, particularly in peripheral areas of Bengaluru**
> –Vidya Kumar, real estate developer

Ripple effect

However, the construction of the PRR will require significant investments in infrastructure, including the development of flyovers, underpasses, and service roads. This will have a positive ripple effect on the city's overall infrastructure, as areas along the PRR will witness improvements in public services like water supply, sewage systems, and public transportation.

"PRR promises to alleviate traffic congestion, promote real estate and industrial development, and improve the city's overall infrastructure. While challenges remain in terms of land acquisition and environmental concerns, its long-term benefits are undeniable. As Bengaluru continues to expand, the PRR will play a pivotal role in shaping a more connected, efficient, and sustainable city," added Raj.

–Prakash VL

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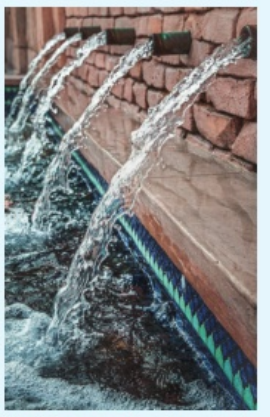
₹5,000Cr infra boost for new industrial areas

Large and Medium Industries Minister MB Patil recently announced the government's plan to secure a Rs 5,000 crore loan to develop new industrial areas and improve infrastructure, including dedicated river water supply systems for these zones. He noted that many industrial areas currently lack proper infrastructure, particularly in terms of water supply. Of the total funds, Rs 2,000 crore will be allocated for the water supply system, while Rs 3,000 crore will be used for infrastructure development, new industrial zones, and land acquisition.



Rs 2K crore is allocated for water supply system

Devaraj Gowda, a real estate developer, said that this move will have a significant impact on the real estate growth around these industrial zones. The introduction of dedicated river water supply systems and other infrastructure improvements will not only enhance the productivity of industries but also create a ripple effect that boosts the real estate sector.

"Industrial growth is always a catalyst for real estate development. Workers and professionals will seek housing nearby, and businesses will look for commercial spaces to support the industrial workforce, leading to a surge in real estate activities. The allocation of Rs 2,000 crore for the water supply system ensures that industries will have a reliable resource for their operations, attracting more companies to set up their bases in these regions. The government's infrastructure push in industrial zones will create a balanced ecosystem, benefiting industries and driving sustained growth in the real estate market around these regions," Gowda added.

Start-up parks

Bengaluru, already known as the hub of software parks, is set to expand its innovation ecosystem with the establishment of startup parks. Patil announced that land has been identified for the first startup park in Bengaluru. Additionally, the government is planning to establish another software park in Belagavi, focussing on the Med-Tech sector.

Officials said that the establishment of a startup park in the city will significantly boost the city's startup culture. "The new startup park will act as a catalyst for innovation and entrepreneurship. By providing state-of-the-art infrastructure, mentorship programs, and networking opportunities, it will nurture emerging startups and help them scale more efficiently. This initiative not only reinforces Bengaluru's reputation as the Silicon Valley of India but also attracts global investors and talent. Additionally, focussing on sectors like Med-tech in Belagavi diversifies the startup ecosystem, fostering growth in specialised industries and contributing to sustainable economic development across the region," added an official.

Bagaluru leads city's real estate surge

In Bengaluru, Bagaluru has emerged as the locality with the highest price appreciation, witnessing a remarkable 90% increase in residential prices between 2019 and the first half of 2024. Residential prices have been rising significantly across cities in the last few years, amid buoyant demand and increased new supply. Anarock Research has analysed the price trends in the top three micromarkets of the top seven cities, based on maximum new supply seen in the last five years. Among the shortlisted localities, Bengaluru's Bagaluru recorded the highest price appreciation.

The average price per square foot in Bagaluru soared from INR 4,300 in 2019 to approximately INR 8,151 in H1 2024. This surge is significant, given that the area saw around 17,065 new residential units added during this period, with over 94% of these units priced between INR 40 lakh and INR 1.5 crore, catering mostly to the mid and premium segments.

Bagaluru recorded highest price appreciation of 90% between 2019 & H1 2024

Whitefield ranked third in price appreciation, with an 80% rise during the same period. The average price in Whitefield increased from INR 4,765 per square foot in 2019 to INR 8,600 per square foot in H1 2024. Approximately 18,600 new residential units were launched in Whitefield, with 66% of these in the mid and premium segments and the remaining 34% in the luxury category. Sarjapur Road saw a 58% increase in property prices, moving it to the fifth position on the list. Average prices per square foot in Sarjapur Road rose from INR 5,870 in 2019 to INR 9,300 by H1 2024. This area also experienced a substantial influx of new residential units, with approximately 36,150 added during this period, highlighting its status as one of the city's most active markets.

Anuj Puri, Chairman of Anarock Group, said, "Around 94% of the new supply in Bagaluru falls within the mid and premium segments, while 6% is in the luxury segment. Notably, no new affordable housing was introduced in this area. The housing price growth has accelerated post-pandemic, with the top seven cities collectively seeing over a 44% price increase in the past five years. Hyderabad led with a 64% increase, followed by Bengaluru with a 57% rise. Kolkata recorded the lowest price growth at 25%, while NCR and MMR each saw a 48% increase. Contrary to the belief that high new supply suppresses price growth, many active residential micromarkets have witnessed substantial appreciation. For instance, Greater Noida West in NCR, with the fifth-highest supply over the past five years, experienced an impressive 129% price increase."

HEALTH TIP: Oranges can help the body make collagen, which is a protein that heals wounds and makes skin smoother

Both the guava fruit and leaves have medicinal qualities that can boost immunity, regulate blood sugar

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All you need to know about...

Light pollution risk

Alzheimer's link
Night-time pollution from streetlights and illuminated signs has been linked with developing Alzheimer's disease because of its effects on people's sleep and biological clocks, according to a study that analysed light pollution maps in 48 US states. Researchers said that night-time light pollution may, therefore, be an important risk factor for developing the ageing-related disorder. However, more studies are needed as the combined effects of both outdoor and indoor night-time light exposure are important to fully understand how they impact the development of Alzheimer's disease, the researchers from Rush University Medical Center, US, said.

Common causes
Irregular sleep patterns, including disturbances, is a common feature capable of triggering mild cognitive impairment, which is the the stage preceding dementia, with Alzheimer's disease being the most common form.
Dementia is marked by affected memory, thinking and decision-making, thereby steadily deteriorating one's daily functioning.

Risk factors of dementia
Known risk factors for developing dementia include metabolic conditions, such as diabetes and high blood pressure, and depression.

Light pollution studied
In this study, published in the journal Frontiers in Neuroscience, the researchers looked at the light pollution maps along with residents' data taken from medical records. The data were related to risk factors for developing Alzheimer's disease. The researchers found that among people aged 65 and older, Alzheimer's disease was more strongly correlated with nightly light pollution than other factors, including depression and obesity.

Bigger risks
However, risk factors like diabetes, high blood pressure, and stroke were found to be more strongly linked with Alzheimer's disease than light pollution. **PTI**

A sweet for Ganesha

These intricate recipes are a must for any celebration

MAHARAJA LADDU

INGREDIENTS
(for 2 laddus 200g each)
- Besan (Gram Flour): 100g
- Water: 120ml (adjust as needed for the batter consistency)
- Ghee: 150g (for frying)
- Sugar: 150g
- Water (for sugar syrup): 75ml
- Cardamom Powder: 1/4 teaspoon
- Saffron: A few strands
- Chopped Nuts: 2 tablespoon (cashews, almonds, or pistachios, for garnishing)

METHOD
- **Prepare the Boondi:** In a mixing bowl, combine the besan with water to make a smooth, lump-free batter. It should have a flowing consistency.
- Heat ghee in a deep frying pan over medium heat.
- Pour the batter through a perforated ladle (boondi jhara) into the hot ghee, making small droplets (boondis).
- Fry the boondis until they are just cooked, not crispy. Remove and drain excess ghee on a paper towel.
- Repeat the process until all the batter is used up.
- **Prepare the Sugar Syrup:** In a pan, combine sugar and water. Heat until the sugar dissolves completely and forms a one-string consistency syrup.
- Add a pinch of Natural kesar food color optional.
- Add saffron strands and cardamom powder to the syrup for flavor.
- Mix the fried boondis into the hot sugar syrup and stir well. Leave to rest until all the syrup is absorbed.
- **Shaping the Laddus:** Allow the mixture to cool slightly so it's easy to handle but still warm.
- Grease your hands with a little ghee, and take a portion of the mixture.
- Press and shape into round laddus, ensuring they are compact and smooth.
- Garnish with chopped nuts.

COCONUT MODAK

INGREDIENTS
- Coconut Powder: 2 cups
- Milk Powder: 1 cup
- Sugar: 1 cup
- Ghee: 2 tablespoons
- Liquid Glucose: 1 tablespoon
- Elaichi (Cardamom) Powder: 1/2 teaspoon
- Kalakand: 1/2 cup
- Coconut Flakes: 1/4 cup
- Badam (Almonds): 1/4 cup, sliced
- Kesar (Saffron):

METHOD
- **Prepare the Mixture:** In a pan, heat 1 tablespoon of ghee on low flame.
- Add the coconut powder and milk powder to the pan. Roast gently until the mixture turns slightly golden and aromatic. Keep stirring to avoid burning.
- **Make the Sugar Syrup:** In another pan, add sugar and 1/2 cup of water. Heat it until the sugar dissolves completely, forming a syrup.
- Add liquid glucose to the sugar syrup and mix well.
- **Combine:** Gradually add the roasted coconut and milk powder mixture into the sugar syrup, stirring continuously.
- Add cardamom powder and the soaked saffron milk into the mixture.
- Add the remaining ghee and mix well. The mixture should start leaving the sides of the pan.
- **Set the the modak mould:** Grease a modak mould with ghee.
- Stuff kalakand badam and coconut flex into the mixture and use the Modak mould to get the perfect Modak shape.

KESAR DRYFRUIT MODAK

INGREDIENTS
- For the Coconut Burfi Base:
- 2 cups Kova (Mawa)
- 1 cup Sugar
- 1/2 cup Kunda (Thickened Milk)
- 1/4 cup Kalakan (a type of milk cake, crumbled)
- 1/4 tsp Kesa
- 1/2 cup Badam (Almonds, finely chopped)
- 2 tbsp Honey
- 2 tbsp Liquid Glucose

METHOD
- **Prepare the Stuffing:** In a small pan, lightly roast the chopped badam until golden brown.
- Remove from heat and mix in the honey and liquid glucose until well combined.
- Set aside the mixture to cool.
- **Prepare the Mixture:** In a heavy-bottomed pan, heat the kova over low heat until it softens.
- Add the sugar to the kova and cook while stirring continuously. The mixture will start to melt and combine.
- Once the sugar is fully dissolved, add the kunda and continue cooking the mixture, stirring frequently to prevent sticking.
- Stir in the crumbled kalakan and cook until the mixture thickens and starts to leave the sides of the pan.
- Add the soaked saffron (kesar) along with the milk and mix thoroughly for an even color and flavor.
- Continue cooking until the mixture reaches a thick, dough-like consistency.
- **Set the modak mould:** Grease a modak mould with ghee.
- Stuff prepared stuffing and coconut flex into the mixture and use the Modak mould to get the perfect Modak shape.

Recipes by India Sweet House

 # PIL withdrawn A PIL seeking a ban on OTT series 'IC-814 — The Kandahar hijack' for allegedly not revealing the real identities of the hijackers was withdrawn from the Delhi High Court

Magic of love

IBBANI TABBIDA ILEYALI
3.0 RATING ★★★☆☆
- **DIRECTOR** Chandrajith Belliappa
- **ACTORS** Vihan, Ankita Amar, Mayuri Nataraja, Girija Shettar, and Salman Sheriff
- **CERTIFICATION** U
- **Duration** 160 minutes

Chandrajith Belliappa has proved his mettle with his directorial debut Ibbani Tabbida Ileyali. The way Belliappa narrates the story is admirable. The movie, especially the climax scene where Vihan and Ankita Amar have outdone each other in terms of acting, is like a magic of love. Though the pre-intermission part is a bit slow, the movie gains momentum in the post-intermission session. Background score and beautiful locations add value to the movie.

The movie begins with a traditional marriage scene. Siddarth aka Sid (Vihan) is all set to tie the knot with Radha (Mayuri Nataraja). A girl holding a Polaroid camera and waving a photocopy makes Sid remember not only his mother who used to take photos with a Polaroid camera but also his lover Anahita (Ankita Amar) who has also used a similar camera to take photos. While his parents and Radha's parents are busy with marriage arrangements, he decides not to cheat Radha by marrying her. He reveals his friendship and love with Anahita and leaves for Goa searching for her. At this juncture, the director introduces a flashback to narrate how Sid, a cricketer, happens to meet Anahita and falls in love with her. What happens to Sid? Will Sid meet Anahita in Goa? Whether or not Anahita agrees to meet him is what Ibbani Tabbida Ileyali is all about.

As far as the performances of the actors are concerned, Vihan is convincing as an angry young man and a cricketer. His performance as an affectionate lover who is ready to do anything to bring back a smile on his lover's face is spot on. The football stadium scene where Anahita reminds us of a popular advertisement where a girl gets into a cricket ground is super. Anahita, as a girl from Goa who does not know to speak Kannada properly, a concerned lover, and a cancer patient, walks away with all honours for her sterling performance. Mayuri Nataraja has acted well. It is good to see Girija Shettar, who earned fame for her performance in Telugu movie Geethanjali, on the silver screen after a long gap.

Music director Gagan Baderia has scored lilting and soothing music while cinematographer Srivathsan Selvarajan has done a fantastic job behind the camera.

We recommend this film for families to watch together.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

'Iruve': Risky dance with ants yields slice of life masterpiece

Having ants as the stars of the movie presents challenges. Unlike humans, ants can't be trained to act, which adds a unique element to the process

17-minute short film blends humour and dark comedy to capture the essence of every day life with creative flair

The journey to create Iruve was anything but ordinary. The logistical nightmare of working with untrainable insects, Rajesh Ramaswamy affectionately known as Ramsam, saw the challenge as an opportunity. " Finding ants was the tricky part," he recalls with a smile, " but luckily, Anirudh the AD had a friend who runs an animal rescue shelter and happened to research ants." This serendipitous connection led to the acquisition of two aquariums full of ants, which became the film's stars.

The 17-minute Kannada short film "Iruve", a title that translates to "Ant" is a thought-provoking exploration of everyday life, captured through the lens of a quirky, yet deeply relatable, narrative centred around ants. The film, set in the neighbourhood of Jayanagar in South Bengaluru, is a testament to Ramaswamy's creative vision and a celebration of the beauty in the mundane.

The natural shots of ants walking on the wall, captured right after the lid was opened, bring authenticity and unpredictability that CGI simply can't replicate. "Having ants as the stars of the movie presents its challenges. Unlike humans, ants can't be trained to act, which adds a unique and tricky element to the filmmaking process." Ramaswamy explains.

In a world where grand cinematic spectacles often overshadow the charm of simplicity, Iruve opens with a humorous and slightly ominous warning: "Oho... these are wild ants, thatha (grandfather). If they bite, it'll swell up this big." The story revolves around Govindaiah, a 70-year-old man whose house has been overrun by red ants. Desperate to rid his home of these tiny invaders, Govindaiah hires Kumara, a pesticide controller. What follows is a slice-of-life drama interwoven with situational comedy, exploring themes of death, desperation, and the human tendency to evade responsibility embodied in Kumara's classic line, "Pesticide strong illa, iruve innu sathila" ("The pesticide isn't strong, the ants are still alive").

Despite its local flavour, Iruve resonates far beyond the borders of Karnataka. The film's universal appeal lies in its simplicity and the director's ability to capture the essence of everyday life. Inspired by the storytelling style of RK Narayan and the cinematic adaptations by Shankar Nag in Malgudi Days, Ramaswamy set out to create a narrative that is both deeply personal and widely relatable. " It's not about a grand plot or anything. It's more about relatable characters, people we encounter every day," he says. "I've always looked at people, observed them closely, wondering what their story could be. I've taken them into my imaginative world and spun stories around them, so much so that I now believe they exist."

The cast of Iruve is a testament to the vibrant talent pool in Bangalore. The film stars veteran actor HG Dattatreya, popularly known as Dattanna, and the versatile Mahantesh, whose comic timing adds a layer of humour to the film's dark comedy. Joining them are Prakash Thuminad, Rohit Srinath, Sonu Venugopal, and Anirudh Acharya. Casting non-actors and debutants for additional roles added a unique flair to the ensemble.

However, the production of Iruve was as unconventional as its subject matter. The project was a collaborative effort by The Script Room, a Bangalore-based writer's hub founded by Ramaswamy. What began as a simple idea quickly evolved into a passion project, with the whole team going above and beyond their assigned roles. Anirudh Acharya, the Assistant Director, ended up sourcing the ants, while Navin Muraleedharan, primarily a writer, stepped in as the music composer. Even the production design team, led by Chaithra Puthraya, contributed props from their own homes to enhance the film's authenticity.

Iruve is more than just a short film about ants; it's a slice of life that captures the quirks and nuances of human nature. It's a testament to the power of storytelling, proving that even the smallest of creatures can inspire a story that touches hearts and minds across the world.

— Sanjana CS

Normal life

Oscar-winning actress Nicole Kidman, who is married to musician Keith Urban, shared that she has a "normal" lifestyle.

Kidman told 'Extra': "I have a very normal life. I'll be at the parent-teacher (conference) tomorrow night.'"

The 57-year-old stars alongside Liev Schreiber in "The Perfect Couple" and she relished the experience of working with the 56-year-old actor.

She said: "I love working with him because he's one of the greatest." The Hollywood star always thought that Schreiber was the perfect candidate for the role, reports femalefirst.co.uk.

She shared: "I said, 'You got to give me Liev because I got to have a husband, a scene partner, to play with, who's going to be really, really rigorous with the script."

— IANS

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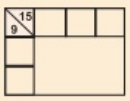
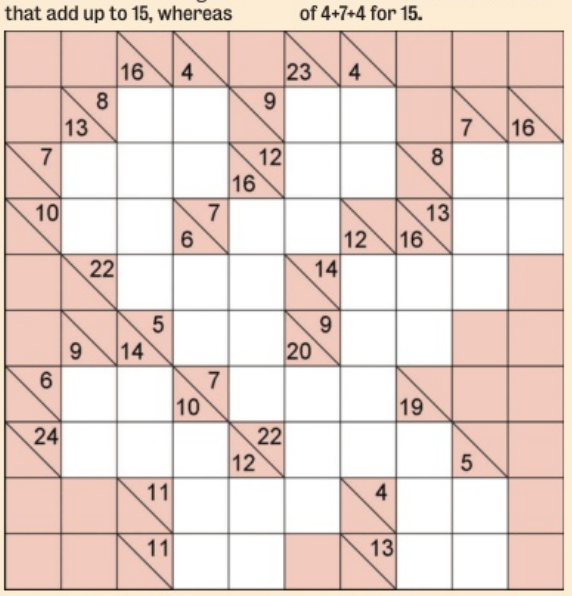
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

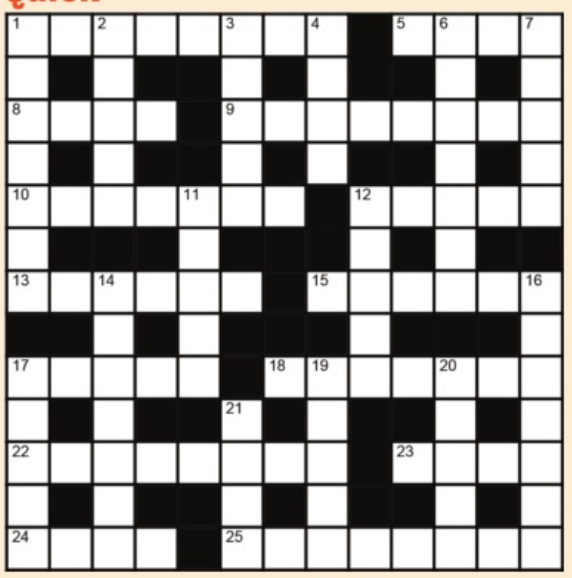


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Inclusion (8)
5 Oral exam (4)
8 Asian language (4)
9 Persons of refined tastes (8)
10 Gigantic or colossal (7)
12 Search (5)
13 Scrounged or sponged? (6)
15 Acknowledging applause (6)
17 Forty ___ : a short sleep ? (5)
18 Climb awkwardly (7)
22 Cold Spanish soup (8)
23 Favorite or darling? (4)
24 Make a hollow in (4)
25 Made whole again (8)

DOWN

1 Oceanic or marine (7)
2 Performed or accomplished something (3,2)
3 Boadicea's tribe (5)
4 Metal spike (4)
6 Middle Easterner (7)
7 Useful quality (5)
11 Requires (5)
12 Allocated share (5)
14 Occupant (7)
16 Distorted, confused (7)
17 Carried on war etc.? (5)
19 Appearances (5)
20 Northernmost district of Karnataka (5)
21 Skin blemish (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: H EQUALS C

NTL HZC EZSK WV ZFF. NTL ALXV HZC'V EZSK WV ZFF ZV TCHK.

Linemaro

I wish I was your coronary artery, so that I could be wrapped around your heart

Mindchow

Your work is to discover your world and with all your heart give yourself to it

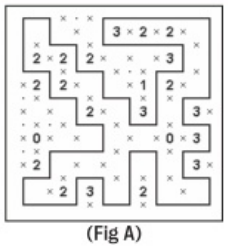
Joke of the day

What's the best part of living in Switzerland? Not sure, but the flag is a big plus

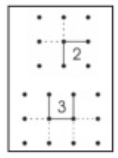
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

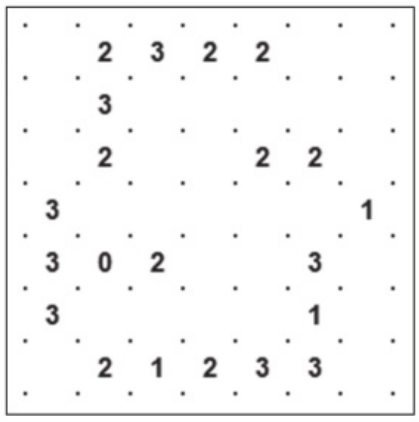


(Fig B) Not Allowed

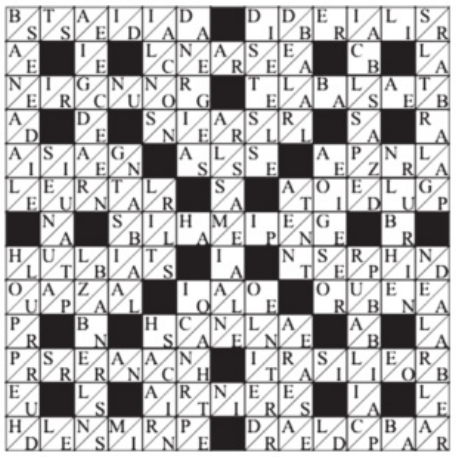
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



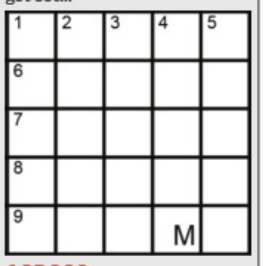
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Roots; 6 IT eve; 7 Sol so; 8 Ratel; 9 Row my

DOWN

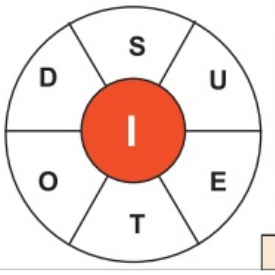
1 Wears; 2 OO Vol; 3 Loire; 4 To Mrs; 5 Et sty

Mensapuzzle

The capital letters below can be turned upside down, viewed in a mirror and still appear as they should ... all except one of the letters, that is which one does not belong?

B C D O S X

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

09 Average; 10 Good; 12 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		5	2		9			
2					3	8		1
6				1				9
	2	3	5					
	6			3			2	
					6	3	4	
9				5				6
5		1	6					4
			7		4	5		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 6
3 3 6 6

Medium = 32
3 3 4 8

Hard = 11
3 8 8 8

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Hoop is larger. 2. Dog is moved. 3. Tree is moved. 4. Fence is shorter. 5. Bush is longer. 6. Boy's hair is different.

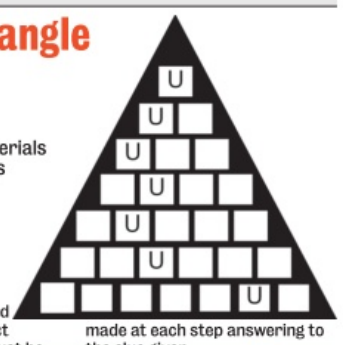
Riddler

When you behead a word, you remove the first letter and still have a valid word. You will be given clues for the two words, longer word first.

1. Broken glass –> Unyielding
2. Dampen; cushion –> Frequent
3. One who leases –> Go into
4. Leave one's country –> Move seasonally

Alpha triangle

1 Last vowel
2 You and me
3 Application
4 Melt together
5 Combustible materials
6 Wind instruments
7 Relaxing

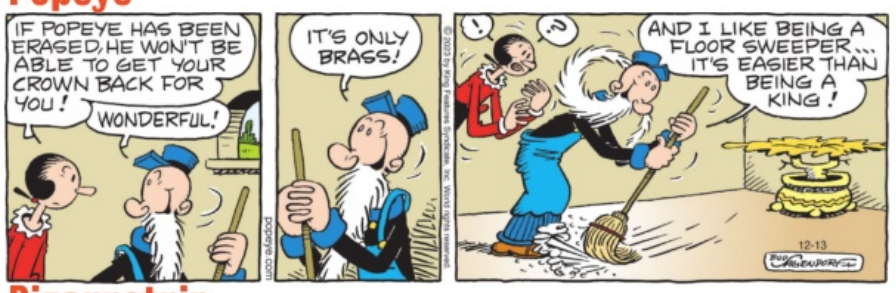


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

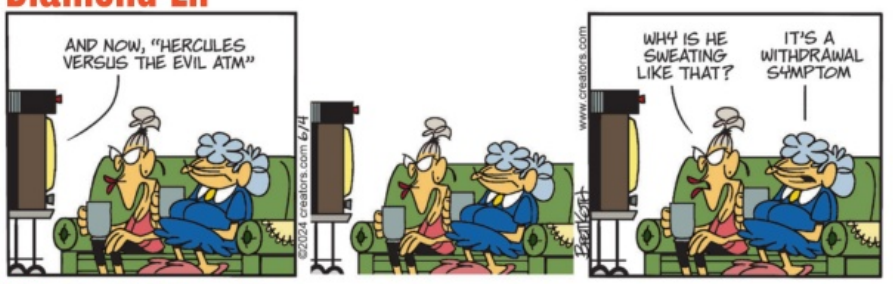
COMICS

Popeye


IF POPEYE HAS BEEN ERASED, HE WON'T BE ABLE TO GET YOUR CROWN BACK FOR YOU!
WONDERFUL!
IT'S ONLY BRASS!
AND I LIKE BEING A FLOOR SWEEPER... IT'S EASIER THAN BEING A KING!
12-13

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil



Hart of the city

WE CAN'T EXTEND THE END TIME TO 5 P.M. THE SCHOOL BUSES LEAVE AT 4:30.
SEE? ALL BRENT WANTS TO DO IS SAY NO TO NEW IDEAS.
WHAT?! NO, I JUST--
TIMES UP. NEXT QUESTION!
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Crankshaft

HAPPY NINETY-FOURTH BIRTHDAY, MATTY!
SO WHY ARE YOU STILL PLAYING SENIOR SOFTBALL AT YOUR AGE?
BECAUSE THERE'S NO SENIOR TACKLE FOOTBALL!
BATIUK & DAVIS tombatiuk.com/books
OLDTIMERS
6-4
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Mutts

I LOVE THE IDEA OF DINING OUT.
YESH! THE FOOD HERE IS SHUPPOSED To BE SHUPERB!
MY MENU DOESN'T SHOW ANY PRICES.
THAT MUST BE THE KITTY MENU.
mutts.com
6-4

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today is a good day. You have good vitality; you may enjoy at work and may also enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may improve domestic harmony. You are likely to make new plans to start some new project; your perfectionist nature may help you to design the flowchart. Job seekers will find suitable jobs. Lovebirds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
You may not feel better today; old health issues may arise, and it may make you upset. You may make some wrong decisions due to impatience and hurry. So it is advised to think twice before making any decision. It is also advised that you should not keep money loose; otherwise, you may spend it on buying worthless stuff.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are blessed by the moon; it may make you happy. You may likely have made good gains in your past investments. You may be able to make quick decisions in terms of work, which may give you good gains in the near future.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may be busy at work. With the help of your strong network, you may be able to implement your plans successfully. Your wisdom may help you to gain profits from past investments. You may enjoy your romantic moments with your spouse, which will increase harmony in your domestic life. Lovebirds may enjoy their happy moments.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. Last week's crunch is now over. With the help of blessings, you may get reciprocation for your hard work. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to initiate your postponed work. There are some gains in your business that may boost your finances.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may feel dull. You may have some health issues. You are likely to face losses in the business. So you are advised to postpone making investments in the business. It is also advised not to start a new venture. Your gains may likely be converted into losses.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may be enthusiastic. Your enthusiasm may help speed up your project. You may be able to take quick decisions, which will help increase your business. You may likely start a new innovation in partnership. Investments in the fixed assets with the business partner are not advised.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you are blessed by a positive moon. You may feel healthy; old health issues may be cured now. Your money, which was stuck somewhere, may likely be recovered now. You may also apply for a loan to buy some stuff related to luxury.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may give you confidence. You may be able to make important decisions confidently. You are decisive, so you may grab the opportunity without a second thought. You may also plan for higher studies. You may likely meet with some intellectual people, and you may exchange views with them.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you may be able to complete difficult tasks very easily, which may boost your confidence level. Your past investments may pay you good gains. You are advised to avoid arguments on worthless topics; it may waste your precious time. You are also advised to control your spending on worthless stuff.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may feel energetic. You may perform efficiently at work, and your hard work may pay you now; this may boost your confidence. Property-related disputes with the siblings are likely to be resolved now. Your meeting with some influential person may boost your network. You may also expect some short trips.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. You are likely to get a big order with the help of your communication skills. You are polite with the people around you, which may increase your respect. You may make some difficult decisions in the business with the help of your colleagues.

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Sanjanna V, Bengaluru

Mahima, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$\sqrt{(4^{-2}-1)}+\sqrt{(4^{-2}-1)}$
$\sqrt{(4^{-1}/_2)}+\sqrt{(4^{-1}/_2)}$
$1/_2+1/_2$
1

BULL'S EYE
diet, edit, OUTSIDE, side, site, sited, studio, suit, suite, TEDIOUS, tide, tied

FAST FIVE

R	O	O	S	T
E	V	I	T	E
A	L	E	R	T
S	O	L	O	S
W	O	R	M	Y

QUOTE UNCODE
You can have it all. You just can't have it all at once.

STRIKE OUT

S	T	A	D	I	A		I	D	E	A	L	S		
A	E		C	E	A	S	E		B	A				
N	I	G	N	O	G		T	A	B	L	E	T		
D	E		N	I	A	L		L	A		A	R		
A	S	A	N		S	S	E		E	Z	R	A		
L	U	N	A	R		A	T	I	E	U	P			
N		B	L	A	M	I	N	G		B				
H	U	L	A	S		I		T	E	P	I	D		
O	P	A	L		O	L	E		R	U	N	E		
P		B	S	C	E	N	E		B		A			
P	R	E	A	C	H		T	A	I	L	O	R		
E	L		A	R	I	E	S		I		E			
D	E	S	I	R	E		R	E	D	C	A	R		

QUICK

D	E	N	T		R	E	S	T	O	R	E	D		
E		E		A		K		A			E			
G	A	Z	P	A	C	H	O		I	D	O	L		
W	I	N	K	S		C	L	A	M	B	E	R		
A			T									A		
C	A	D	G	E	D		B	O	W	I	N	G		
T	I	T	A	N	I	C		Q	U	E	S	T		
A		I		N		L		A		R		E		
U	R	D	U		E	P	I	C	U	R	E	S		
A		I		A		L		A		R		E		
S														

MENSA PUZZLE
The "S" does not belong.

RIDDLER
1. Shard -> Hard,
2. Soften -> Often,
3. Renter - > Enter,
4. Emigrate -> Migrate

SUDOKU

3	8	6	7	9	4	5	1	2
5	7	1	6	8	2	9	3	4
9	4	2	3	5	1	7	8	6
7	5	9	1	2	6	3	4	8
4	6	8	9	3	7	1	2	5
1	2	3	5	4	8	6	9	7
6	3	4	8	1	5	2	7	9
2	9	7	4	6	3	8	5	1
8	1	5	2	7	9	4	6	3

ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, Us, Use, Fuse, Fuels, Flutes, Restful.

GO FIGURE
Easy
3 - 6 + 3 + 6 = 6
Medium
3 + 3 x 4 + 8 = 32
Hard
3 + 8 - 8 + 8 = 11

LOOP

KAKURO

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